

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

STEVEN THARP, Individually and On  
Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

ACACIA COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,  
MURUGESAN SHANMUGARAJ, and  
JOHN F. GAVIN,

Defendants.

**Case No.**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Steven Tharp (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated, by his undersigned attorneys, for his complaint against Defendants, alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as to himself and his own acts, and information and belief as to all other matters, based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by and through his attorneys, which included, among other things, a review of the Defendants’ public documents, conference calls and announcements made by Defendants, United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings, wire and press releases published by and regarding Acacia Communications Inc. (“Acacia” or the “Company”), analysts’ reports and advisories about the Company, and information readily obtainable on the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a federal securities class action on behalf of a class consisting of all persons other than defendants who purchased or otherwise acquired Acacia securities between

August 11, 2016 and July 13, 2017, both dates inclusive (the “Class Period”), seeking to recover damages caused by defendants’ violations of the federal securities laws and to pursue remedies under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, against the Company and certain of its top officials.

2. Acacia designs, develops, manufactures, and markets communication equipment. The Company offers high-speed coherent optical interconnect products for cloud infrastructure operators and content and communication service providers. Acacia Communications serves customers worldwide.

3. Founded in 2009, the Company is headquartered in Maynard, Massachusetts. Acacia’s stock trades on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol “ACIA.”

4. Throughout the Class Period, Defendants made materially false and misleading statements regarding the Company’s business, operational and compliance policies. Specifically, Defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) the Company’s manufacturing and quality control processes were deficient; (ii) the foregoing deficiencies were likely to disrupt the Company’s manufacturing, thereby impacting the Company’s revenues; and (iii) as a result of the foregoing, Acacia’s public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

5. On May 31, 2017, Acacia issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, advising investors that “the Company has identified a quality issue” affecting “a portion” of several thousand modules manufactured by one of Acacia’s three contract manufacturers, citing as the “root cause of this quality issue . . . a circuit board cleaning process that has since been eliminated.”

6. On July 14, 2017, Acacia issued a press release announcing the Company's preliminary financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2017. The Company reported profit and revenue that missed estimates, and revised its current-quarter guidance downward. Acacia stated that the Company's "second-quarter results were adversely affected by the quality issue identified at one of our three contract manufacturers that we announced on May 31."

7. On this news, Acacia's share price fell \$2.62, or 6.30%, to close at \$39.00 per share on July 14, 2017.

8. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

9. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §§78j(b) and 78t(a)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC (17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5).

10. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and Section 27 of the Exchange Act.

11. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to §27 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §78aa) and 28 U.S.C. §1391(b). Acacia's principal executive offices are located within this Judicial District.

12. In connection with the acts, conduct and other wrongs alleged in this Complaint, defendants, directly or indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce,

including but not limited to, the United States mail, interstate telephone communications and the facilities of the national securities exchange.

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff, as set forth in the attached Certification, acquired Acacia securities at artificially inflated prices during the Class Period and was damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures.

14. Defendant Acacia is incorporated in Delaware, with principal executive offices located at Three Mill and Main Place, Suite 400, Maynard, Massachusetts 01754. Acacia's shares trade on the NASDAQ under the ticker symbol "ACIA."

15. Defendant Murugesan Shanmugaraj ("Shanmugaraj") has served at all relevant times as the Company's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO"), President and Director.

16. Defendant John F. Gavin ("Gavin") has served at all relevant times as the Company's Chief Financial Officer ("CFO").

17. The defendants referenced above in ¶¶ 15-16 are sometimes referred to herein as the "Individual Defendants."

### **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

#### **Background**

18. Acacia Communications, Inc. designs, develops, manufactures, and markets communication equipment. The Company offers high-speed coherent optical interconnect products for cloud infrastructure operators and content and communication service providers. Acacia Communications serves customers worldwide.

#### **Materially False and Misleading Statements Issued During the Class Period**

19. The Class Period begins on August 11, 2016, when Acacia filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, announcing the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2016 (the "Q2 2016 10-Q"). For the quarter, the Company reported net income of \$17.60 million, or \$0.43 per diluted share, on revenue of \$116.19 million, compared to net income of \$4.71 million, on revenue of \$57.85 million for the same period in the prior year.

20. The Q2 2016 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("SOX") by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q2 2016 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

21. On November 10, 2016, Acacia filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, announcing the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended September 30, 2016 (the "Q3 2016 10-Q"). For the quarter, the Company reported net income of \$34.89 million, or \$0.86 per diluted share, on revenue of \$135.30 million, compared to net income of \$8.84 million, on revenue of \$65.42 million for the same period in the prior year.

22. The Q3 2016 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q3 2016 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

23. On February 23, 2017, Acacia filed an annual report on Form 10-K with the SEC, announcing the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter and fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 (the "2016 10-K"). For the quarter, the Company reported net income of \$64.49 million, or \$1.55 per diluted share, on revenue of \$142.43 million, compared to net

income of \$22.64 million, on revenue of \$68.55 million for the same period in the prior year. For 2016, the Company reported net income of \$131.58 million, or \$3.22 per diluted share, on revenue of \$478.41 million, compared to net income of \$40.52 million, or \$1.30 per diluted share, on revenue of \$239.06 million for 2015.

24. In the 2016 10-K, the Company stated, in relevant part:

### **Manufacturing**

We contract with third parties to manufacture, assemble and test our products. We utilize a range of CMOS and CMOS-compatible processes to develop and manufacture the coherent DSP ASICs and silicon PICs that are designed into our modules. We select the semiconductor process and foundry that provides the best combination of performance, cost and feature attributes necessary for our products.

We contract with three third-party contract manufacturers to test, build and inspect modules incorporating our coherent DSP ASICs and silicon PICs for high-volume production of our modules. Our contract manufacturers also implement many customer-specific configurations and packaging before customer shipments. ***We build the test systems used by our contract manufacturers.*** We also directly manufacture prototype products and limited production quantities during initial new product introduction.

We believe our outsourced manufacturing model enables us to focus our resources and expertise on the design, sale, support and marketing of our products to best meet customer requirements. We also believe that this manufacturing model provides us with the flexibility required to respond to new market opportunities and changes in customer demand, simplifies the scope of our operations and administrative processes and significantly reduces our working capital requirements, while providing the ability to scale production rapidly.

***We subject our third-party contract manufacturers and foundries to qualification requirements in order to meet the high quality and reliability standards required of our products. Our engineers and supply chain personnel work closely with third-party contract manufacturers and fab foundries to increase yield, reduce manufacturing costs, improve product quality and ensure that component sourcing strategies are in place to support our manufacturing needs.***

(Emphasis added.)

25. The 2016 10-K contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the 2016 10-K was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

26. On May 9, 2017, Acacia filed a quarterly report on Form 10-Q with the SEC, announcing the Company's financial and operating results for the quarter ended March 31, 2017 (the "Q1 2017 10-Q"). For the quarter, the Company reported net income of \$35.71 million, or \$0.86 per diluted share, on revenue of \$114.67 million, compared to net income of \$14.60 million, or \$0.43 per diluted share, on revenue of \$84.49 million for the same period in the prior year.

27. The Q1 2017 10-Q contained signed certifications pursuant to SOX by the Individual Defendants, stating that the financial information contained in the Q1 2017 10-Q was accurate and disclosed any material changes to the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

28. The statements referenced in ¶¶ 19-27 were materially false and misleading because defendants made false and/or misleading statements, as well as failed to disclose material adverse facts about the Company's business, operational and compliance policies. Specifically, defendants made false and/or misleading statements and/or failed to disclose that: (i) the Company's manufacturing and quality control processes were deficient; (ii) the foregoing deficiencies were likely to disrupt the Company's manufacturing, thereby impacting the Company's revenues; and (iii) as a result of the foregoing, Acacia's public statements were materially false and misleading at all relevant times.

**The Truth Begins to Emerge**

29. On May 31, 2017, Acacia issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, advising investors that “the Company has identified a quality issue” affecting “a portion” of several thousand modules manufactured by one of Acacia’s three contract manufacturers, citing as the “root cause of this quality issue . . . a circuit board cleaning process that has since been eliminated.”

30. On July 14, 2017, Acacia issued a press release and filed a Current Report on Form 8-K with the SEC, announcing the Company’s preliminary financial and operating results for the quarter ended June 30, 2017. In the press release, the Company stated, in relevant part:

**MAYNARD, Mass. – July 14, 2017** — Acacia Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: ACIA), a leading provider of high-speed coherent optical interconnect products, today announced certain preliminary financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2017 and provided preliminary guidance for its third quarter ending September 30, 2017.

“Our second quarter results were adversely affected by the quality issue identified at one of our three contract manufacturers that we announced on May 31. As we previously announced, we identified a circuit board cleaning process as the likely root cause of the quality issue. This cleaning process was eliminated and manufacturing at the impacted contract manufacturer resumed. Although we began to ramp manufacturing capacity with our contract manufacturers during the quarter, we experienced supply constraints as capacity was used to both build replacement units and to meet new demand from customers for our AC400 and CFP units,” said Raj Shanmugaraj, President and Chief Executive Officer of Acacia Communications. “We anticipate completing our remediation efforts with respect to the remaining impacted units during the third quarter of 2017.”

“While we are disappointed with the impact that the quality issue had on second quarter results, looking ahead to the third quarter, we believe we are well positioned to meet customer demand for our products, which we believe continues to be driven by the strength of our product capabilities,” said John Gavin, Chief Financial Officer of Acacia Communications. “We remain excited about Acacia’s future growth opportunities, and believe that the new products we are currently ramping up will be contributors to our anticipated growth in the second half of 2017 over the first half of 2017.”

**Preliminary Results for the Second Quarter of 2017**

- Revenue of \$77.0 million to \$79.0 million
- GAAP net (loss) of \$(7.5) million to \$(5.5) million



- Non-GAAP net income of \$7.0 million to \$8.5 million
- GAAP diluted (net loss) per share of \$(0.19) to \$(0.14)
- Non-GAAP diluted EPS of \$0.17 to \$0.20

31. On this news, Acacia's share price fell \$2.62, or 6.30%, to close at \$39.00 per share on July 14, 2017.

32. As a result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions, and the precipitous decline in the market value of the Company's securities, Plaintiff and other Class members have suffered significant losses and damages.

### **PLAINTIFF'S CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

33. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3) on behalf of a Class, consisting of all those who purchased or otherwise acquired Acacia securities during the Class Period (the "Class"); and were damaged upon the revelation of the alleged corrective disclosures. Excluded from the Class are defendants herein, the officers and directors of the Company, at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which defendants have or had a controlling interest.

34. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Throughout the Class Period, Acacia securities were actively traded on the NASDAQ. While the exact number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can be ascertained only through appropriate discovery, Plaintiff believes that there are hundreds or thousands of members in the proposed Class. Record owners and other members of the Class may be identified from records maintained by Acacia or its transfer agent and may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail, using the form of notice similar to that customarily used in securities class actions.

35. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class as all members of the Class are similarly affected by defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of federal law that is complained of herein.

36. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class and has retained counsel competent and experienced in class and securities litigation. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with those of the Class.

37. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members of the Class. Among the questions of law and fact common to the Class are:

- whether the federal securities laws were violated by defendants' acts as alleged herein;
- whether statements made by defendants to the investing public during the Class Period misrepresented material facts about the business, operations and management of Acacia;
- whether the Individual Defendants caused Acacia to issue false and misleading financial statements during the Class Period;
- whether defendants acted knowingly or recklessly in issuing false and misleading financial statements;
- whether the prices of Acacia securities during the Class Period were artificially inflated because of the defendants' conduct complained of herein; and
- whether the members of the Class have sustained damages and, if so, what is the proper measure of damages.

38. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy since joinder of all members is impracticable. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to individually

redress the wrongs done to them. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

39. Plaintiff will rely, in part, upon the presumption of reliance established by the fraud-on-the-market doctrine in that:

- defendants made public misrepresentations or failed to disclose material facts during the Class Period;
- the omissions and misrepresentations were material;
- Acacia securities are traded in an efficient market;
- the Company's shares were liquid and traded with moderate to heavy volume during the Class Period;
- the Company traded on the NASDAQ and was covered by multiple analysts;
- the misrepresentations and omissions alleged would tend to induce a reasonable investor to misjudge the value of the Company's securities; and
- Plaintiff and members of the Class purchased, acquired and/or sold Acacia securities between the time the defendants failed to disclose or misrepresented material facts and the time the true facts were disclosed, without knowledge of the omitted or misrepresented facts.

40. Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to a presumption of reliance upon the integrity of the market.

41. Alternatively, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are entitled to the presumption of reliance established by the Supreme Court in *Affiliated Ute Citizens of the State of Utah v. United States*, 406 U.S. 128, 92 S. Ct. 2430 (1972), as Defendants omitted material information in their Class Period statements in violation of a duty to disclose such information, as detailed above.

**COUNT I**

**(Violations of Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 Promulgated Thereunder  
Against All Defendants)**

42. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained above as if fully set forth herein.

43. This Count is asserted against defendants and is based upon Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78j(b), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder by the SEC.

44. During the Class Period, defendants engaged in a plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, pursuant to which they knowingly or recklessly engaged in acts, transactions, practices and courses of business which operated as a fraud and deceit upon Plaintiff and the other members of the Class; made various untrue statements of material facts and omitted to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and employed devices, schemes and artifices to defraud in connection with the purchase and sale of securities. Such scheme was intended to, and, throughout the Class Period, did: (i) deceive the investing public, including Plaintiff and other Class members, as alleged herein; (ii) artificially inflate and maintain the market price of Acacia securities; and (iii) cause Plaintiff and other members of the Class to purchase or otherwise acquire Acacia securities and options at artificially inflated prices. In furtherance of this unlawful scheme, plan and course of conduct, defendants, and each of them, took the actions set forth herein.

45. Pursuant to the above plan, scheme, conspiracy and course of conduct, each of the defendants participated directly or indirectly in the preparation and/or issuance of the quarterly and annual reports, SEC filings, press releases and other statements and documents described above, including statements made to securities analysts and the media that were designed to

influence the market for Acacia securities. Such reports, filings, releases and statements were materially false and misleading in that they failed to disclose material adverse information and misrepresented the truth about Acacia's finances and business prospects.

46. By virtue of their positions at Acacia, defendants had actual knowledge of the materially false and misleading statements and material omissions alleged herein and intended thereby to deceive Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, or, in the alternative, defendants acted with reckless disregard for the truth in that they failed or refused to ascertain and disclose such facts as would reveal the materially false and misleading nature of the statements made, although such facts were readily available to defendants. Said acts and omissions of defendants were committed willfully or with reckless disregard for the truth. In addition, each defendant knew or recklessly disregarded that material facts were being misrepresented or omitted as described above.

47. Information showing that defendants acted knowingly or with reckless disregard for the truth is peculiarly within defendants' knowledge and control. As the senior managers and/or directors of Acacia, the Individual Defendants had knowledge of the details of Acacia's internal affairs.

48. The Individual Defendants are liable both directly and indirectly for the wrongs complained of herein. Because of their positions of control and authority, the Individual Defendants were able to and did, directly or indirectly, control the content of the statements of Acacia. As officers and/or directors of a publicly-held company, the Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate timely, accurate, and truthful information with respect to Acacia's businesses, operations, future financial condition and future prospects. As a result of the dissemination of the aforementioned false and misleading reports, releases and public statements,

the market price of Acacia securities was artificially inflated throughout the Class Period. In ignorance of the adverse facts concerning Acacia's business and financial condition which were concealed by defendants, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class purchased or otherwise acquired Acacia securities at artificially inflated prices and relied upon the price of the securities, the integrity of the market for the securities and/or upon statements disseminated by defendants, and were damaged thereby.

49. During the Class Period, Acacia securities were traded on an active and efficient market. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, relying on the materially false and misleading statements described herein, which the defendants made, issued or caused to be disseminated, or relying upon the integrity of the market, purchased or otherwise acquired shares of Acacia securities at prices artificially inflated by defendants' wrongful conduct. Had Plaintiff and the other members of the Class known the truth, they would not have purchased or otherwise acquired said securities, or would not have purchased or otherwise acquired them at the inflated prices that were paid. At the time of the purchases and/or acquisitions by Plaintiff and the Class, the true value of Acacia securities was substantially lower than the prices paid by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class. The market price of Acacia securities declined sharply upon public disclosure of the facts alleged herein to the injury of Plaintiff and Class members.

50. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, defendants knowingly or recklessly, directly or indirectly, have violated Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.

51. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' wrongful conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class suffered damages in connection with their respective purchases, acquisitions and sales of the Company's securities during the Class Period, upon the disclosure

that the Company had been disseminating misrepresented financial statements to the investing public.

## **COUNT II**

### **(Violations of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act Against The Individual Defendants)**

52. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

53. During the Class Period, the Individual Defendants participated in the operation and management of Acacia, and conducted and participated, directly and indirectly, in the conduct of Acacia's business affairs. Because of their senior positions, they knew the adverse non-public information about Acacia's misstatement of income and expenses and false financial statements.

54. As officers and/or directors of a publicly owned company, the Individual Defendants had a duty to disseminate accurate and truthful information with respect to Acacia's financial condition and results of operations, and to correct promptly any public statements issued by Acacia which had become materially false or misleading.

55. Because of their positions of control and authority as senior officers, the Individual Defendants were able to, and did, control the contents of the various reports, press releases and public filings which Acacia disseminated in the marketplace during the Class Period concerning Acacia's results of operations. Throughout the Class Period, the Individual Defendants exercised their power and authority to cause Acacia to engage in the wrongful acts complained of herein. The Individual Defendants therefore, were "controlling persons" of Acacia within the meaning of Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act. In this capacity, they participated in the unlawful conduct alleged which artificially inflated the market price of Acacia securities.

56. Each of the Individual Defendants, therefore, acted as a controlling person of Acacia. By reason of their senior management positions and/or being directors of Acacia, each of the Individual Defendants had the power to direct the actions of, and exercised the same to cause, Acacia to engage in the unlawful acts and conduct complained of herein. Each of the Individual Defendants exercised control over the general operations of Acacia and possessed the power to control the specific activities which comprise the primary violations about which Plaintiff and the other members of the Class complain.

57. By reason of the above conduct, the Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to Section 20(a) of the Exchange Act for the violations committed by Acacia.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants as follows:

A. Determining that the instant action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and certifying Plaintiff as the Class representative;

B. Requiring Defendants to pay damages sustained by Plaintiff and the Class by reason of the acts and transactions alleged herein;

C. Awarding Plaintiff and the other members of the Class prejudgment and post-judgment interest, as well as their reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees and other costs; and

D. Awarding such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

#### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.

Dated: August 14, 2017



Respectfully submitted,

/s/Theodore M. Hess-Mahan

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